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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP

INTELLIGENCE REPORT

COUNTRY Germany/Russian Zone

DATE: 25X1A6a

SUBJECT Russian Interest in German Building Materials and Methods

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ INFO.

DIST. 28 October 1946

25X1A6a

PAGES

ORIGIN

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SUPPLEMENT

1. The Soviet Ministry for Building Materials has several branch offices in Germany which are under a Central Office in Karlshorst and Berlin. Two such branch offices are in Leipzig and Meissen. The office in Leipzig is directed by Major Arbusow and Lt. Colonel Rabinow.
2. The Leipzig office has been hiring about 100 scientists and scientific assistants, mostly geologists, mineralogists and chemists, none of whom can secure a release even if they were previously members of the Nazi Party. After they were contacted by the office mentioned above, these scientists were given a "Labor Draft Order" (Arbeitsbefehl) by the local Kommandatur, which compelled them to do the job required.
3. The assignments given the drafted scientists have to do mainly with building materials, with the costs and techniques of various modern building methods, and with the availability of building materials in Saxony. The Russians are especially interested on concrete, asbestos, and substitutes for these materials. Germany has almost no asbestos but used substitutes for asbestos during the war in the production of shock absorbers for anti-aircraft guns and supports for the springs in tanks.

4. [REDACTED] supposes that the Russians want to introduce modern building methods in reconstruction at home and that they want to utilize not only German experience and scientific research but also German raw materials. Brick ovens and concrete plants have been dismantled and sent to Russia. Many of the scientists drafted have been assigned to explore sites of granite, marble, and other building materials throughout Saxony.

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 CONFIDENTIAL in accordance with the
 letter of 27 October 1946 from the
 Director of Central Intelligence to the
 Archivist of the United States.
 Next Review Date: 1947

Document No.

NO CHANGE in Class.

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Class. CHANGED TO: TS

DDA Memo, 4 Apr 77

Auth: DDA REG. 77/1783

Date: 27/03/78 By: 029

25X1A

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